

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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R 191536Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7763

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMCONSUL POZNAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 0948

VIENNA FOR PAO CONFERENCE

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PL

SUBJECT: PLENUM ANNOUNCES CABINET AND PARTY SECRETARIAT
PERSONNEL SHIFTS

REF: WARSAW 0730

1. SUMMARY: AS ANNOUNCED IN EARLY FEB (REFTEL,) THE FEB 15 PZPR CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM DEALT WITH THE IDEOLOGICAL-EDUCATIONAL TASKS OF THE PARTY IN CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEOPLE'S POLAND. THERE WERE NO SURPRISES IN THE TEXT OF GIEREK'S SPEECH AND THE REMARKS OF OTHERS, AS REPORTED IN THE CENTRAL PRESS. THE SURPRISES WERE RESERVED FOR THE "OTHER-BUSINESS"
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CATEGORY; POLITBIURO CANDIDATE MEMBER BARCHKOWSKI WAS

RELIEVED OF HIS POSITION AS A CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECRETARY AND GIVEN AN IMPORTANT EXECUTIVE ROLE AS MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. THREE NEW CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECRETARIES WERE APPOINTED: WINCENTY KRASKO, JOZEF PINKOWSKI, AND ANDRZEJ WERBLAN. VICE PREMIER JOZEF TEJCHMA WAS MADE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND ART REPLACING THE APPARENTLY DISCREDITED STANISLAW WORNSKI. END SUMMARY.

2. GIEREK'S SPEECH AND THE COMMENTS OF OTHERS WHO SPOKE WERE ABOUT WHAT HAD BEEN EXPECTED: AN EXHORTATION TO THE PARTY FAITHFUL, AND PARTICULARLY TO THE MEDIA, CULTURAL SECTORS, AND EDUCATION, TO EMPLOY THE CELEBRATIONS TO INCREASE POPULAR IDEOLOGICAL ENGAGEMENT AND AWARENESS OF THE BENEFITS OF SOCIALISM BROUGHT BY 30 YEARS OF PEOPLE'S POLAND. NINE OF THE 25 SPEAKERS REPRESENTED THE MEDIA AND CULTURAL OR EDUCATIONAL FIELDS. THE RHETORIC OF MANY OF THE SPEAKERS, INCLUDING GIEREK, WAS TEMPERED BY FREQUENT REFERENCES TO PRIDE IN FATHERLAND, PATRIOTISM, AND THE LONG STRUGGLE (PARTICULARLY IN THE 19TH CENTURY) TO PRESERVE THE NATIONAL IDENTITY. BUT THE GENERAL MESSAGE IN PRESS ACCOUNTS OF THIS ANNIVERSARY YEAR IS TO BE THAT PEOPLE'S POLAND HAS SERVED THE CAUSE OF THE POLISH NATION WELL. THERE WAS NO MENTION OF THE "BROAD AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM", WHICH GIEREK HAD SAID IN JANUARY WOULD BE DISCUSSED BY THE NEXT PLENUM (REFTEL).

3. BARCIKOWSKI WAS IDENTIFIED IN PRESS ACCOUNTS AS A CANDIDATE MEMBER OF THE POLITBIURO, THANKED FOR HIS SERVICE IN THE SECRETARIAT, AND RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT TO GOVERNMENT POSITION. HIS APPOINTMENT AS MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE WAS ANNOUNCED IN THE PRESS FEB 17. IF THIS HAD BEEN A POLITICAL OUSTER RATHER THAN A TRANSFER TO OTHER HIGH-LEVEL WORK, THE PLENUM COULD ALSO HAVE RELIEVED BARCIKOWSKI OF HIS POLITBURO CANDIDATE MEMBERSHIP. BARCIKOWSKI WILL CLEARLY BE A KEY FIGURE IN THE BROAD LONG-RANGE AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM TO INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION. BARCIKOWSKI HAS A RURAL BACKGROUND, IS AN AGRICULTURAL ENGINEER WITH A DOCTORATE IN ECONOMICS, AND FOR TWO YEARS WAS FIRST SECRETARY OF POZNAN WOJEWODZTWO, THE

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MOST PRODUCTIVE AGRICULTURAL AREA OF POLAND. HE ALSO WAS ONE OF THE ORIGINAL GIEREK TEAM BROUGHT TO THE SECRETARIAT IN DECEMBER 1970, WHERE HE HAS DEALT PRIMARILY WITH AGRICULTURAL MATTERS.

4. BOTH KRASKO AND WERBLAN HAVE LENGTHY BACKGROUNDS IN IDEOLOGICAL WORK, KRASKO ON THE CULTURAL SIDE AND WERBLAN ON THE EDUCATION AND SCIENCE SIDE. BOTH ALSO

ARE EXPERIENCED PROPAGANDA APPARATCHIKS. THEIR ELEVATION TO THE SECRETARIAT APPEARS DESIGNED TO ENHANCE THE SECRETARIAT'S ABILITY TO MANAGE THE IDEOLOGICAL-EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS.

5. PINKOWSKI IS A HIGHLY REGARDED ECONOMIC PLANNING TECHNICIAN, WHO IS SAID TO HAVE PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE RECENTLY IN WORKING OUT THE AMBITIOUS NEW WAGE-AND-PRICE PACKAGE. HIS ELEVATION CAN BE TAKEN AS AN INDICATION OF GIEREK'S DESIRE TO HAVE A SKILLED TECHNICIAN IN THIS AREA NEAR HIM AS THE PROGRAM IS BEING IMPLEMENTED.

6. IN ADDITION TO ANNOUNCING BARCIKOWSKI'S APPOINTMENT AS MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, THE FEBRUARY 17 PRESS ALSO ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF VICE PREMIER JOZEF TEJCHMA AS MINISTER OF CULTURE AND ART; HE RETAINS HIS VICE-PREMIERSHIP, AS WELL. STANISLAW WRONSKI, HITHERTO MINISTER OF CULTURE, REMAINS IN THE GOVERNMENT AS MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO. WRONSKI'S REMOVAL HAS BEEN RUMORED FOR OVER A YEAR. IN ADDITION TO REPORTS THAT HE HAS BEEN INEFFECTUAL BOTH AS AN ADMINISTRATOR AND AS A FIGURE OF AUTHORITY AMONG THE CREATIVE INTELLIGENTSIA, HIS PERSONAL LIFE HAS GIVEN RISE TO SCANDAL. (KEY-MAREK-SWIECICKI MEMCONS OF OCTOBER 18 AND OCTOBER 25, 1973).

7. COMMENT: THESE PARTY AND GOVERNMENTAL CHANGES POINT IN THE DIRECTION OF THE ACHIEVEMENT OF TIGHTER ORGANIZATIONAL CONTROL BY THE PARTY IN THE KEY AREAS OF INTELLECTUAL LIFE AND AGRICULTURE. GIEREK'S OWN SUCCESS HAS BEEN BASED ON HIS UNCHALLENGED REPUTATION AS A FIRST-CLASS ADMINISTRATOR. IN SHIFTING BARCIKOWSKI TO MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, GIEREK'S REGIME FOLLOWS THE PATTERN

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SET RECENTLY AT LOCAL LEVELS OF MERGING POLITICAL AND DIRECT ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITY IN ONE MAN. WE ARE NOT INCLINED TO REGARD BARCIKOWSKI'S MOVE AS A DEMOTION. HE IS BEING GIVEN ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT AND POLITICALLY SENSITIVE POSTS IN THE GOVERNMENT ON THE EVE OF A MAJOR NEW LONG-RANGE PROGRAM FOR POLISH AGRICULTURE. SOME OF THE SAME ELEMENTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE THINKING CAN BE SEEN IN THE ASSIGNMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND ART TO VICE PREMIER TEJCHMA WHICH REMOVES ONE ADMINISTRATIVE LAYER AND GIVE MORE VISIBLE AND ACTIVE EMPLOYMENT TO ANOTHER VICE PREMIER, REPEATING THE PATTERN OF LAST NOVEMBER WHEN VICE PREMIER OLSZEWSKI ASSUMED THE DUTIES OF MINISTER OF SHIPPING.

DAVIES

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